

# STARS AND STRIPES

Sunday, March 23, 2003

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

## 'Toughest day'

### U.S. troops advance but suffer dead and captured

BY DAVID JOSAR

*Stars and Stripes*

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait — Al-Jazeera, the Arab cable news station based in the Middle East, broadcast chilling pictures of what it said were dead American soldiers as well as interviews with five soldiers who have allegedly been taken prisoner.

Two of the five soldiers — one a woman — identified themselves as members of the 507th Maintenance Company.

All of the soldiers were visibly shaken and all appeared to have some sort of injuries.

One looked like he had a broken wrist and other cuts and abrasions. The injuries had been bandaged.

"I was just following orders; I come to shoot only if I am shot at. I do not want to kill anyone," said one prisoner, who said he was from Kansas in response to an interviewer's questions.

He was asked why he came to Iraq. He responded, "I was told to come here."

Another prisoner, who said he was from Texas, only gave his name, unit, age and said that, "I follow orders."

He was asked how many officers were in his unit and replied he did not know. He was in a wheelchair.

Another soldier, who said he was from New Jersey, was also sitting in a wheelchair.

The female soldier had her feet wrapped in bandages.

The most disturbing images were of piles of what the

broadcaster said were American soldiers. They appeared to have been shot in the head, and powder burns were visible on their faces.

They were wearing tan T-shirts and camouflage chemical suit pants. Images were then broadcast of what appeared to be personal documents and belongings taken from the soldiers such as credit cards, wallets, calling cards and an AAFES video rental card.

It was hard to determine how many different groups of bodies there were, where the videos were taken, how many bodies there were, or when they were taken.

As many as eight bodies were shown, including one body that was shown lying on a road. The body was behind a water buffalo that had the words "potable water" written on it. The water tank was being towed by a large Army truck.

The truck's passenger side door was open and blood could be seen on the inside of the door.

The U.S. Army's 507th Maintenance Company is based in Fort Bliss, Texas. The unit is part of the Army's 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, which includes Patriot missile batteries.

A Pentagon official who had seen the footage and who spoke with Stars and Stripes on the condition of anonymity said several of those captured had visible single gunshot wounds to the forehead.

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## Corpsmen help everyone



THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER, MARK AVERY/AP

Navy corpsmen tend to an Iraqi prisoner in southern Iraq. The cause of the injury was unknown.

## Bush demands humane treatment for U.S. prisoners of war in Iraq

BY SCOTT LINDLAW

*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Bush demanded Sunday that any American troops held captive in Iraq be treated humanely and said he was pleased with the progress of the war.

"Saddam Hussein is losing control of his country," Bush said. "It's going to take a while to achieve our objective, but we're on course, we're determined, and we're making good progress."

Bush spoke to reporters shortly after an Arab satellite station aired footage from Iraqi television of interviews with what the station identified as captured American prisoners. Also shown were bodies in uniform in an Iraqi morgue that the station said were Americans.

Bush, returning to the

White House from Camp David, said he did not have all the details, but expected that Iraq treat any prisoners "humanely, just like we'll treat any Iraqi prisoners."

He said at a church service at Camp David that he and Laura Bush had mourned for all those killed in the war and had "asked God's comfort" for those grieving.

The president sought to brace the country for what could be drawn-out military action.

"There's pockets of resistance, but we're making good progress," Bush said. "This is just the beginning of a tough fight."

"We're slowly but surely achieving our objective. We're just in the beginning phases. We're executing a plan."

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# POW

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"There were five or six, or could have been seven," he said. "It was hard to tell because they would pan the camera and stop the footage and shoot from a different angle and you had to try to recount."

"This wasn't pretty," the official said, his hand shaking and his voice trembling. "They were piled up and then they were out in a line."

The video clip, which is about 10 minutes long, was also shown on other Middle East cable stations such as those that originated in Syria.

It began being aired around 7 p.m. local time in Kuwait.

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The Associated Press and Stripes reporter Sandra Jontz also contributed to this report

## Bush

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Asked whether there was a possibility of an Iraqi surrender, he said: "All I know is we got a game plan, a strategy to free the Iraqi people from Saddam Hussein and rid his country" of weapons of mass destruction.

Bush said he was thankful "the enemy has not used" any such weapons.

The president suggested it was too late for the Iraqi leader to give up power — the condition Bush set last week for Iraq to avoid war. "He had his chance to go into exile," Bush said.

But he promised that "massive amounts" of humanitarian aid were poised to move into Iraq in the next 36 hours.

"That's going to be positive news for those who suffered a long time under Saddam Hussein," he said.

## States

**Phony nightclub inspections:** A Boston police sergeant is under investigation for promising to help nightclub owners pass city inspections for a fee during a citywide crackdown following the deadly nightclub fire in Rhode Island.

Nightclub owners and an industry spokesman told The Boston Globe that Sgt. Kenneth Jameson, sometimes accompanied by three of four others, approached them while not in uniform and said he'd check the facilities for fees of more than \$1,000.

"They're going from door to door, flashing badges," said Spiro DeMikes, manager of the Caprice Restaurant & Lounge at the Wyndham Tremont Boston Hotel. "They're asking for the manager, saying they are associated with the fire department because they know people are touchy right now and they'll get direct access. He said, 'I'm an adviser for the fire department. We can guarantee you'll pass inspections.' It made me wonder, 'What will happen if I say no?'"

Alan Eisner, president of the Massachusetts Hospitality Association, said the nightclub owners he spoke to felt they were being "shaken down."

**Enron bankruptcy:** A New York bankruptcy judge has decided that current Enron Corp. employees must pay nearly \$4 million a year to an independent overseer of three retirement plans into which they're locked.

Enron Corp. and the U.S. Labor Department fought to have Enron continue paying the expense. Creditors, who are trying to get as much back out of the deflated former energy trading giant as possible, wanted to shift the plans' costs onto workers.

Employees will pay an average of \$320 per year and each worker's share would rise as the company shrinks.

**Protester remembered:** Mourners in Olympia, Wash., said prayer in the Muslim, Jewish and Christian fashion Saturday as they remembered an American student and peace activist who was killed last week in a Palestinian refugee camp.

More than 1,800 family, friends and faculty attended the memorial for Rachel Corrie at The Evergreen State College, from which the 23-year-old senior had been on leave.

Corrie was an international observer and activist for the International Solidarity Movement, a Palestinian-led group that uses nonviolent methods to challenge the Israeli occupation.

She died March 16 when a bulldozer driven by an Israeli soldier ran over her as she protested in front of a Palestinian home he was demolishing.

**Bethlehem Steel bankruptcy:** Lawyers for Bethlehem Steel retirees will ask a judge Monday to block the bankrupt company's plan to cut off health benefits to former workers, despite a union's promise to let the proposal go through.

The company has asked the court to allow it to cut off health and life insurance benefits to all retirees on March 31. But at a hearing in New York, attorneys plan to ask a judge to keep the health plan intact until at least late April.

**Sniper book deal:** An attorney for Montgomery County (Md.) Police Chief Charles Moose said it was "outrageous" that an ethics panel feared Moose would reveal too much about the Washington-area snipers in a book.

The Montgomery County Ethics Commission ruled Thursday that Moose may not undertake the book project or consult on a movie about the investigation because he would be profiting from the prestige of his office and possibly compromise the prosecutions.

## News tracker: What's new with old news

**Cuban hijacking:** Some passengers from a Cuban airliner that was hijacked and diverted to Florida were to return home Saturday, officials said.

Jacqueline Becerra, a spokeswoman with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Miami, said some of the 24 Cuban passengers and six crewmembers would return, but did not specify how many.

**Denver snowstorm:** Many people got out of their Denver neighborhoods Saturday for the first time since the region's biggest snowstorm in 90 years dropped as much as 11 feet of snow, as crews worked to clear roads to others who were still stranded.

The heavy snow continued taking a toll on buildings. Students using the Ritchie Center sports complex at the University of Denver were evacuated Saturday because a wall was threatened by heavy snow tumbling off a roof. A suburban Office Depot was evacuated because of fears the roof would collapse.

## World

**Former rebel leader killed:** Gunmen on Sunday shot to death the former leader of Kashmir's largest Islamic rebel group in what may have been retribution for talks with the Indian government.

The slaying of Abdul Majid Dar, former Kashmir commander of the Hezb-ul Mujahedeen, was a setback for Indian security authorities, who were trying to persuade the former leader to take a political role in the state wracked by 13 years of separatist violence.

Dar was fatally shot in the town of Sopore, a separatist stronghold 35 miles north of Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state. He was supervising construction work at his new house in Sopore when the gunmen drove up and shot him, Kumar said.

Dar, who was once among the most popular rebel leaders in Kashmir, had been living in hiding for more than a decade.

**Vote of confidence:** The new Turkish government won a widely expected vote of confidence in parliament Sunday, as relations between NATO allies Turkey and the United States remained strained over Iraq.

Legislators in Ankara voted 350-162 in favor of Recep Tayyip Erdogan's 9-day-old government in a procedural vote that finishes off the process of installing a government. Erdogan's Justice and Development party, which has roots in Turkey's Islamic movement, enjoys a large majority in the 550-seat parliament.

Erdogan led his party to an overwhelming victory in elections last year. He had been barred from running for political office himself because of a previous criminal conviction until his party's lawmakers changed the constitution.

**Assassination investigation:** Serbia's police on Sunday renewed pledges to wipe out a gangland network accused of masterminding the slaying of Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic.

In a statement, police in Belgrade said their probe had proven beyond any doubt that "the Zemun Clan directly organized and carried out" Djindjic's March 12 assassination.

Soon after Djindjic's death, the government said the underworld clan linked to former President Slobodan Milosevic's regime was behind the killing.

"The police are reassuring citizens that all members of this criminal gang will be brought to justice," the statement said.

Despite a massive manhunt, the three main suspects, identified as the Zemun clan's ringleaders, remain at large.

**Afghan schools:** Afghan children will have a lot of new classmates when they return to school this year.

With hundreds of new schools and hundreds of thousands of refugees returning home, at least 1 million more children are expected to attend school in Afghanistan this year, officials say.

Education Minister Yunus Qanooni said 5.8 million students will go to school, up from 3.3 million last year. The United Nations has a more conservative estimate — about 4.5 million.

**Palestinian cabinet:** The Palestinian prime minister-designate Saturday began consultations toward forming a new cabinet and considered naming a well-known security figure as interior minister, a challenge to Yasser Arafat's authority.

Arafat agreed to create the new position of prime minister under intense international pressure and on March 19 named Mahmoud Abbas, his deputy in the Fatah movement, to the post. Abbas has another month to form a new cabinet.

## War on terrorism

**More Guantanamo releases:** Nineteen Afghans who had been held at the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have been released because they were no longer considered a terrorist threat, officials in Afghanistan said Sunday.

U.S. authorities flew the 19 prisoners to Afghanistan on Saturday and handed them over to the Interior Ministry, presidential spokesman Sayed Fazal Akbar said.

About 11,000 soldiers from 23 nations — the bulk of them American — are headquartered at Afghanistan's Bagram Air Base to hunt down Taliban holdouts and remnants of the al-Qaida terrorist network.

**N.Y. terror training:** City subway workers have completed terrorism preparedness courses intended to teach them how to respond in the event of a terrorism attack.

The courses offer information on identifying bombs, knowing the symptoms of a chemical and biological attack and recognizing suspicious packages.

About 2,500 of the 47,000 employees of NYC Transit have taken the standard two-hour version of the course, while the rest have undergone abbreviated versions, agency spokeswoman Deirdre Parker told Newsday in Sunday's editions.

**Australian travel advisory:** A group believed to be planning a terrorist attack in the Indonesian city of Surabaya is associated with the Islamic extremist organization Jemaah Islamiyah, the main suspect in the Bali bombings, Australia's foreign minister said Sunday.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer spoke a day after the ministry warned Australians not to travel to Surabaya and advised those already there to stay home and exercise extreme caution.

**Saudi explosion:** A man killed last week in a bomb explosion that ripped through a Riyadh house was a Saudi citizen who had trained in Afghanistan and had stacked an arsenal of guns and explosives in his home, the Interior Ministry said Saturday.

The official Saudi Press Agency, quoting an Interior Ministry official, identified the man as Fahd bin Samran bin Amir al-Saedi, 30, and said he had a previous security record.

From The Associated Press



# U.S. missile downs British jet

BY NICOLE WINFIELD

*The Associated Press*

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar — A U.S. Patriot missile battery shot down a British Royal Air Force fighter aircraft near the Iraq-Kuwait border Sunday, British and U.S. military officials said.

There was no word on the fate of the two British crewmen on board the Tornados GR4 warplane, British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon said in London.

The jet, based in Marham, Britain, was returning from an operational mission early Sunday and was engaged by the missile battery, said a statement from the British press information center at U.S. Central Command in Qatar.

Asked how the missile could have brought down the plane, Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told ABC television that "procedures and electronic means to identify friendly aircraft and to identify adversary aircraft ... broke down somewhere."

"Central Command is looking into that as we speak. Again, it's a terrible tragedy and our hearts go out to the crew members," Myers said.

Group Capt. Al Lockwood, spokesman for British forces in the Gulf, said authorities were "looking now for the evidence of the aircraft's crash site and obviously the crewmembers."

Speaking on the British Broadcasting Corp. television, Hoon said "an enormous amount of effort" had been spent on fitting the best possible protection against "friendly fire" incidents.

"But there is no single technological solution to this problem."

It is about having a whole set of procedures in place. Sadly on this occasion they have not worked," he said.

Lockwood noted that the Patriot system is designed to intercept everything above it from incoming ballistic missiles to low-flying cruise missiles.

"We wish to find out just as everybody else does — the U.S. as well — why this happened. And we will be carrying out a joint investigation to determine the facts so that we can eliminate this problem forever," he said.

He said the Americans were "just as concerned as we are that this has occurred."

About 45,000 British military personnel are in the Persian Gulf fighting along with U.S. forces in the attack on Iraq.

In the four days since the war began, 14 British and seven American servicemen have been killed.

Six British troops and a U.S. Navy officer died Saturday when two British Royal Navy helicopters collided over the Persian Gulf.

Another helicopter crash Friday claimed the lives of eight British and four U.S. Marines. The CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter crashed and burned about nine miles south of the Iraqi border town of Umm Qasr. Military officials said no hostile fire was reported in the area.

Lockwood acknowledged the bad start to the campaign, saying it was "not one we would have chosen, I have to say, but this you must remember is high-intensity conflict. This is war and it's not training."

"We will continue to do our job and see it to its finish," he said.

Both the 1991 Persian Gulf War and Afghanistan saw U.S. and allied troop casualties from friendly fire. In the 1991 Gulf War, 4 percent of allied losses — which included 35 of the 148 Americans killed — were from what the military also calls "friendly fire."

Nine British soldiers were killed in Iraq in the 1991 conflict when two American A-10 aircraft mistakenly fired on their armored personnel carriers. A U.S. military investigation concluded that the pilots had mistaken the Britons for an Iraqi target 13 miles to the east.

## Latest developments

DOHA, Qatar — Latest developments in the Iraqi crisis:

■ British and U.S. officials said a Royal Air Force aircraft that was reported missing Sunday was shot down over Kuwait by a Patriot missile. The crew, which was returning from a mission, was missing.

■ Heavily armed Iraqi police and security torched brush along the Tigris River and shot into the reeds after witnesses said parachutes fell on the riverbank.

■ Iraq's vice president claimed Iraqi forces were holding American prisoners of war and would soon show them on television.

Coalition officials denied the claim.

■ A U.S. soldier from the 3rd Infantry Division was killed in a vehicle accident in southern Iraq. The death occurred as the division's 2nd Brigade rolled to within 100 miles of Baghdad while clashing with Iraqi soldiers, killing 100 of them.

■ U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said some American soldiers were missing in Iraq. He also said some journalists may have been captured by Iraqi troops.

■ Iraqi Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf said 77 Iraqis were killed in Basra by allied airstrikes Saturday. He said 503 people were injured in the bombing, including 106 in Baghdad and 366 in the southern city of Basra.

■ Grenades were thrown into three tents at a 101st Airborne command center in Kuwait, killing one American serviceman and wounding 13 others, three seriously. A U.S. soldier was detained as a suspect in the attack.

■ Coalition troops were still trying to mop up resistance at the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr so it could be used for humanitarian shipments.

■ Jordan became the first Arab state to expel Iraqi diplomats, saying Sunday that five envoys performed acts "incompatible" with diplomatic duties. Officials said on condition of anonymity that the Iraqis were suspected of "espionage."

■ An apparent car bomb killed at least five people, including an Australian cameraman, at a road checkpoint in northeastern Iraq near the Ansar al-Islam camp. At least eight people were injured.

■ Britain's ITN television news reported that three members of an ITN news crew were missing after coming under fire en route to Basra in southern Iraq.

## Geneva Conventions on treatment of POWs

The first Geneva Conventions were drawn up in 1864 to deal with treatment of wounded on the battlefield.

Further conventions in 1949 set out standards for the treatment of the wounded and POWs, as well as protection of civilians.

**Article 13:** Prisoners of war must at all times be humanely treated. Any unlawful act or omission by the detaining power causing death or seriously endangering the health of a prisoner of war in its custody is prohibited, and will be regarded as a serious breach of the present convention.

In particular, no prisoner of war may be subjected to physical mutilation or to medical or scientific experiments of any kind which are not justified by the medical, den-

tal or hospital treatment of the prisoner concerned and carried out in his interest. Likewise, prisoners of war must at all times be protected, particularly against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity. Measures of reprisal against prisoners of war are prohibited.

**Article 14:** Prisoners of war are entitled in all circumstances to respect for their persons and their honor. Women shall be treated with all the regard due to their sex and shall in all cases benefit by treatment as favorable as that granted to men. Prisoners of war shall retain the full civil capacity which they enjoyed at the time of their capture. The detaining power may not restrict the exercise, either within or without its own territory, of the rights such capacity confers except in so far as the captivity requires.

From The Associated Press

From The Associated Press

# Soldier held in fatal attack in Kuwait

BY PATRICK MCDOWELL

*The Associated Press*

KUWAIT CITY — A U.S. soldier was detained Sunday on suspicion of throwing grenades into three tents at an Army command center in Kuwait, killing one fellow serviceman and wounding 15, three of them seriously.

The motive in the attack “most likely was resentment,” said Max Blumenfeld, a U.S. Army spokesman. He did not elaborate.

The suspect, found hiding in a bunker, is an engineer from an engineering platoon in the 101st Airborne, said Col. Frederick B. Hodges, commander of the division’s 1st Brigade. His name was not released and he had not been charged, the Army said.

The information was met “with shock and surprise. Nobody expects something like this to happen,” said Marine Corps Maj. Pete Mitchell, a CENTCOM spokesman.

“But we’re an organization of humans, and unfortunately, there are individuals in every unit, in every outfit, that need more attention than others.”

Ten of those wounded had superficial wounds, including puncture wounds to their arms and legs from grenade fragments, said George Heath, a civilian spokesman for division’s home base in Kentucky.

The name of the soldier killed was not released because family members had not been notified, Heath said.

The attack happened in the command center of the 101st Division’s 1st Brigade at Camp Pennsylvania at 1:30 a.m. The commander learned of the attack when a sergeant woke him up.

## Fort Campbell families wait for word of 101st

BY JOE BIESK

*The Associated Press*

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — At the home of the 101st Airborne Division, anxiety over loved ones in war turned into horror when they learned that some of them were attacked and that a fellow soldier had been detained as a suspect.

“It’s obvious when you hear that someone from here has been injured or harmed, it’s a sickening experience to think that it’s someone that you know” who may be responsible, said the Rev. Gerald Baker, whose area congregation is 10 percent active-duty Army.

“You wonder what is wrong with them or what they must have been struggling with.”

The division’s camp in Kuwait was attacked early Sunday with grenades. Fourteen soldiers were wounded, four seriously, U.S. military officials said.

The detained soldier, who had not been charged, is assigned to the 101st. The motive in the attack “most likely was resentment,” said Max Blumenfeld, a spokesman for the U.S. Army V Corps. He did not elaborate.

The early morning attack took place in the command center of the 101st Division’s 1st Brigade at Camp Pennsylvania, Blumenfeld said.

He did not identify the wounded soldiers

or say if any high-ranking officers were among them.

The attack compounded the anxiety of relatives of the division’s soldiers, as well as the community.

“This is a very difficult situation for us here,” said Baker, of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Hopkinsville, about 20 miles north of Fort Campbell. “The immediate response is people start to pray.”

Willee Cooper had just come home from a planning meeting for a pro-troop rally when she heard that the 101st had been attacked.

“I know my heart feels like it’s dropped,” said Cooper, 55.

The 101st Airborne is a rapid deployment group trained to go anywhere in the world within 36 hours. The roughly 22,000 members of the 101st were deployed Feb. 6.

The news was a contrast from hearing about the progress military officials said has been made in Iraq.

“I know we were all feeling very buoyant,” said Cooper of Hopkinsville.

Cooper, whose husband retired from the base, said she can relate to how the soldiers’ wives are feeling.

“It’s hard, it is,” she said. “I’ve been a spouse, I know it’s so difficult. I’ve just never known any women stronger than a military spouse.”

“I immediately smelled smoke,” Hodges told Britain’s Sky News television. “I heard a couple of explosions and then a popping sound which I think was probably a rifle being fired. It looks like some assailant threw a grenade into each of these three tents here.”

Two Kuwaiti translators working at the command center were questioned and released, Heath said. Earlier, he said the attack appeared to have been carried out by terrorists.

“When this all happened, we tried to get accountability for everybody,” Hodges told Sky News. “We noticed four

hand grenades were missing and that this sergeant was unaccounted for.”

Camp Pennsylvania is a rear base camp of the 101st, near the Iraqi border. Kuwait is the main launching point for the tens of thousands of ground forces — including parts of the 101st — who have entered Iraq.

Jim Lacey, a correspondent for Time magazine, told CNN that he was about 20 yards away when explosions at Camp Pennsylvania went off at what he said were two tents that housed division leadership.

He said he interviewed an Army major who was sitting outside the tent.

“He said he saw the grenade roll by him,” Lacey said.

The incident has not spurred leaders at CENTCOM to send out a directive for commanders to screen servicemembers, Mitchell said.

“I’m unaware of any kind of screening taking place in that regard. To us, it’s the type of situation you would defer to the leadership of a unit,” Mitchell said. “Fitness for duty is something commanders will have to assess on his own people. We certainly aren’t looking at religion as a delineating factor in an individual’s fitness for duty.”

Stripes reporter Sandra Jontz contributed to this report.

## Copter crashes in Afghanistan, killing six

WASHINGTON — A U.S. Air Force helicopter crashed in Afghanistan Sunday, killing all six people on board, the U.S. military said.

The HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter was on a medical evacuation mission when it crashed at about 11:20 a.m. EST, about

18 miles north of Ghazni, Afghanistan.

The helicopter was not shot down, the statement said. The precise cause of the crash is under investigation.

The Central Command statement did not say whether the medical emergency was in connection with Operation Valiant Strike, a mission involving the Army’s 82nd Airborne Division.

From The Associated Press



# Allies clash with Iraqis in several areas

BY CALVIN WOODWARD

*The Associated Press*

Allied forces confronted a shaken but combative foe in their advance through southern Iraq on Sunday, suffering more combat deaths and the first U.S. prisoners of war. They declared the invasion on target but it was increasingly bloody for the coalition.

Despite a day of dispiriting developments, the U.S.-British coalition fought to within 100 miles of Baghdad and tended to a growing northern front.

Allied soldiers came under attack in a series of ruses, U.S. officials said, with one group of Iraqis waving the white flag of surrender, then opening up with artillery fire; another group appearing to welcome coalition troops but then attacking them.

Lt. Gen. John Abizaid of U.S. Central Command said a faked surrender near Nasiriyah, a crossing point over the Euphrates River northwest of Basra, set off the "the toughest day of resistance" that coalition forces had met in the campaign so far. Up to nine Marines died before the Americans prevailed, he said.

Twelve U.S. soldiers were missing and presumed captured by Iraqis in an ambush on an army supply convoy at Nasiriyah, Central Command said.

"We, of course, will be

much more cautious in the way that we view the battlefield as a result of some of these incidents," Abizaid said.

On the third day of the ground war, any expectation that Iraqi defenders would simply fold was gone.

"Clearly, they are not a beaten force," said Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "This is going to get a lot harder."

President Bush kept his eye on the big prize — the removal of Saddam Hussein's government and Iraq's eventual disarmament.

"I know that Saddam Hussein is losing control of his country," Bush said upon his return from the Camp David retreat in Maryland.

"We are slowly but surely achieving our objective." He demanded that U.S. prisoners of war be treated humanely.

With allies closing in, Iraqi leaders appealed for a united Arab front to condemn the invasion but knew they wouldn't get it.

"There is no hope in these rulers," Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan said.

But Russia and Chinese foreign ministers reasserted their view that the invasion has no legal basis and asked for an immediate halt.

Arab television showed what it said were four American dead in an Iraqi morgue and at least five other Ameri-

cans identified as captured soldiers.

"I come to shoot only if I am shot at," said one prisoner, who said he was from Kansas. Asked why he was fighting Iraqis, he replied: "They don't bother me; I don't bother them."

Also, a British warplane was shot down in a friendly-fire attack by U.S. Patriot missiles, its crew of two unaccounted for, and a grenade attack in an Army base in Kuwait left a captain dead and a U.S. soldier as the suspect.

In the most notable gain for the coalition, soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade moved 230 miles in 40 hours, killing scores of Iraqi militiamen who engaged them with machine guns, to take positions less than a day's journey from Baghdad.

The brigade raced day and night across rugged desert in more than 70 tanks and 60 Bradley fighting vehicles. No American injuries were reported in that battle.

Iraqi Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Sultan Hashim Ahmed expressed confidence his troops can hold the capital.

"If they want to take Baghdad, they will have to pay a heavy price," he said.

Several other allied units engaged in intensive gunbattles Sunday. In southern Iraq, a soldier from the 3rd Infantry Division died in a vehicle accident.

## Journalist may have been killed by 'friendly fire'

*The Associated Press*

LONDON — A British television news reporter who disappeared in southern Iraq was believed to have been killed by "friendly fire," his employer said Sunday.

ITN television news said its reporter Terry Lloyd and two colleagues apparently were caught in a barrage of "friendly fire" Saturday and the network "received sufficient evidence" that Lloyd was dead.

"We believe his body to be in Basra hospital, which is still under Iraqi control," a network statement said.

ITN said it still had no information on the whereabouts of Lloyd's missing colleagues, cameraman Fred Nerac, of Belgium, and translator Hussein Osman, of Lebanon.

"Iraqi ambulances took a number of dead and injured from the area into Basra, and locally based journalists have given ITN information which leaves no doubt that Terry Lloyd's body was among the dead," the ITN statement said.

The three vanished after coming under fire Saturday en route to Basra in southern Iraq.

"ITN believes this fire came from coalition forces," the statement said. The statement did not elaborate.

Another ITN cameraman, Daniel Demoustier, was injured.

Also Saturday, a freelance cameraman with the Australian Broadcasting Corp. was among at least five people killed by an apparent car bomb at a checkpoint near a camp of the al-Qaida-linked militant group Ansar al-Islam.

At least eight other people were injured.

Paul Moran, 39, was killed in the attack in northern Iraq. ABC correspondent Eric Campbell suffered minor shrapnel injuries, a network statement said.

## Hundreds search Tigris for 'downed pilot'

*The Associated Press*

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqi officials launched a massive search in Baghdad for a possible downed coalition pilot on Sunday, scouring a river and shooting into bushes along the river banks.

Coalition officials denied any plane had been downed.

Navy Lt. Mark Kitchens, a

U.S. Central Command spokesman, said that any report that a coalition aircraft was shot down near Baghdad or that a pilot was missing was completely false.

Hundreds of heavily armed police and security men opened up with Kalashnikov assault rifles along the Tigris River after witnesses said they had seen parachutes fall in the area.

Police also set fire to the brush and fired shots near the base of the al-Tahrir bridge. Small boats patrolled the river, searching the murky brown waters. Police and security cut off roads leading into the area.

Crowds and television cameras gathered quickly, and hundreds of civilians tried to join the search.

## Rocket likely Iraqi

TEHRAN, Iran — Tehran said Sunday a missile that landed in northwestern Iran was probably Iraqi, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Sunday.

The agency said Iraq's top envoy in Tehran was called to the Foreign Ministry to explain.

Iran had said three rockets that landed in its territory Friday and Saturday were fired by U.S. jets, and warned coalition warplanes engaged in the war in Iraq to stay out of its airspace.

An Iranian official told reporters Sunday that one missile was Iraqi and that another that struck the southern city of Abadan and injured two people was fired by coalition forces. He did not mention the third missile.

## Backing Germany

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Following similar German warnings, Belgian Foreign Minister Louis Michel on Sunday said Belgium too would withdraw its crewmembers from NATO surveillance planes patrolling Turkish airspace if Turkey moves its troops into Iraq.

Michel also warned that any Turkish military incursions into northern Iraq could damage Turkey's attempts to join the European Union.

Turkey denied media reports Saturday that some 1,000 Turkish commandos had crossed into northern Iraq.

"If the Turks enter into Kurdistan (in northern Iraq), they will have a serious problem in their candidacy to the EU," Michel said on Belgian television. "The NATO mission should only be used for defensive measures. If they enter Iraq, we are in a totally new situation and we will let NATO know of our position against this."

In Berlin on Saturday, German Foreign Minister Joscha Fischer and Defense Minister Peter Struck issued a similar threat to pull out of the AWACS crews now working out of the Konya air base in central Turkey.

From The Associated Press

# Operation going more quickly than predicted

BY DAVID JOSAR

*Stars and Stripes*

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait — The coalition attacking Iraq is prepared to switch to a massive humanitarian assistance operation, the U.S. general in charge of air operations over Iraq said Sunday.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Daniel Leaf also said Operation Iraqi Freedom is going faster than he and planners thought, but cautioned that no one can predict the future.

"It's going more rapidly than predicted ... but there is resistance," said Leaf, the air component coordination element director for the Coalition Land Forces Command. "If we compare [this to] the beginning of the Normandy invasion of World War II ... we are making very, very rapid progress."

Leaf addressed about 150 reporters at a hotel outside Kuwait City.

He said roughly 1,600 coal-

ition planes are flying from 30 bases in 12 countries and from five aircraft carriers.

"We are absolutely deliberate" in our targeting, and "it's been dangerous, hard work," said Leaf, who wore a flight suit.

Leaf said he had no information on a report that a British jet returning from a mission into Iraq was missing after being hit by a U.S. Patriot missile in northern Kuwait. He said an investigation would be completed soon.

Leaf said he views the war as one being fought with one hand clenched in a fist and the other hand open.

The fist represents the military might to remove Saddam Hussein and his regime from power, Leaf said. The open hand shows that the coalition is willing and able to help the country and bring humanitarian aid.

Planes and crews are prepared to begin delivering that assistance, Leaf said, but that operation hasn't begun.

Leaf did not say when and how the aid would be delivered, but during the U.S.-led campaign in Afghanistan, Air Force planes, many taking off from Ramstein Air Base in Germany, dropped specially prepared Meals, Ready to Eat into the country.

Part of the military success so far, the general said, is keyed to the combination of weapons and types of planes being used.

He noted more planes are loaded with better weapons than in previous conflicts. He specifically cited bombers that now can carry Joint Direct Attack Munitions, "smart bombs," that can be targeted using satellites to hit multiple targets.

The weapons being used are "nothing I would describe as unconventional," he said during 30 minutes of questioning. "We've worked to develop a synergy of different weapons and platforms."

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## Search for al-Qaida turns up weapons

*The Associated Press*

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Helicopters thundered over mountain villages, disgorging soldiers to search mud-brick houses as U.S.-led forces pressed their hunt for al-Qaida remnants in Afghanistan this week.

"Don't let them bring (the fight) to you, you bring it to them," Lt. Col. Charlie Flynn of the 82nd Airborne Division's 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment told his troops as the new operation in the hunt for terrorists began in Afghanistan's rugged Sami Ghar mountains Thursday.

The troops were accompanied by pool reporters, but they were not allowed to file dispatches until Sunday.

About 600 U.S. troops assisted by Romanian infantry and

Afghan fighters launched the operation, code-named Valiant Strike, on Thursday just as U.S. forces began airstrikes on Baghdad.

Commanders said the timing was coincidence.

Chinook and Black Hawk transport helicopters, under escort from Apache helicopter gunships, zoomed into the area, believed to be a haven for members of the former Taliban regime ousted by U.S. troops in late 2001.

Women soldiers, with help from Afghan interpreters, frisked village women. Other troops found and removed small arms, mine stashes and rocket-propelled grenades from walled compounds and houses.

Troops chased down two men who ran as U.S. forces arrived, but discovered they

were just shepherds who said they were spooked by the din of Apaches roaring overhead. The two men were let go.

When asked about small arms found in his home, shepherd Akter Mohammad, 40, said he needed guns to protect his sheep from wolves.

The air assault scared him, making him think the soldiers were going to take his family.

"If they are coming to bring peace in Afghanistan, we are happy," Mohammad said.

Chinooks dropped off troops in a dried-up riverbed, and several soldiers walked into the village of Narai for a "soft breach."

Since the beginning of the raids, at least 13 people have been detained. Some Afghan troops traded fire with enemy fighters on Saturday, but U.S. troops have encountered no resistance.



# San Diego hit hardest by war casualties

By BERNIE WILSON

*The Associated Press*

LA MESA, Calif. — The war in Iraq has repeatedly hit home in the San Diego area, where six of the first eight Americans killed during the conflict were either stationed or had lived.

Pete Micklish and his wife, Dianne, answered their door here Saturday to the knocking of Navy chaplains looking for their neighbors. The couple would later pass along the news: that their neighbors' 27-year-old son, Navy Lt. Thomas Mullen Adams, had been killed in a helicopter collision over the Persian Gulf.

Dianne Micklish reached Adams' parents in Germany, where they were visiting a daughter.

It was "the worst news anybody could ever share," she said.

"How do you tell somebody their only son, one they're so proud of ..." she said, her voice trailing off. "They were so proud of his accomplishments, and they were so scared when they knew he was going to go over there. How do you do that?"

Adams had been assigned as an exchange officer with the Royal Navy's 849 Squadron since October. Six British troops aboard the Royal Navy helicopters also died in the crash Saturday.

Neighbor Mary Frasure remembered Adams as "an adorable boy. Just darling."

Another Californian, identified by the Defense Department as Lance Cpl. Jose Gutierrez, 22, of Los Angeles, was among the first to die in combat.

He and 2nd Lt. Therrel S. Childers, both with the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton in San Diego County, were killed Friday during fighting in southern Iraq. One died leading his infantry platoon in a firefight to secure an oil pumping station, U.S. Central Command said. The other died in fighting near the port of Umm Qasr. No other details were available, and officials at Camp Pendleton had no further comment.

## Families recall fallen Marines

By MARK BABINECK

*The Associated Press*

HOUSTON — While mourning his U.S. Marine son, Mark D. Kennedy remembered the 25-year-old's excitement about his mission in Iraq.

"He was very pleased to be with the Marines in Kuwait and he was thrilled to have the assignment he had," said Kennedy, who had been in touch with Cpl. Brian Matthew Kennedy since he went overseas.

"Our son and brother proudly volunteered to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps. He gave his life in an effort to contribute to the freedom of the Iraqi people," Mark D. Kennedy, 52, said from his Houston home Friday night.

"He was thrilled to be there and he was having a wonderful time," Mark D. Kennedy said. "We just miss him terribly already. He was a wonderful man."

Brian Kennedy and Maj. Jay Aubin, 36, were remembered by their Texas relatives on Friday. Both were killed when their CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter crashed and burned in Kuwait on Thursday.

The Pentagon identified the two other Marines killed in the crash as pilot, Capt. Ryan Anthony Beaupre, 30, of Bloomington, Ill., and Staff Sgt. Kendall Damon Waters-Bey, 29, of Baltimore.

The helicopter went down about nine miles south of

the Iraqi border town of Umm Qasr. Eight British marines also died. Officials said the crash was not caused by hostile fire.

Growing up in Skowhegan, Maine, Jay Aubin was always surrounded by airplanes, his father, Tom Aubin, said from his home in the Central Texas town of Bangs.

His lifelong love of flying led him to enlist in the Marines at 18, and then return after two years of school so he could get a position as a pilot, Tom Aubin said.

"When he was 4 years old, we all went to the airport and he had sat on one of my airplanes like a grown man, and somebody would walk up and I would say, 'Well, what's wrong with this airplane?' And he would say, 'Well, they didn't get a big enough engine, but it still flies good.' Everybody would get a kick out of him," Tom Aubin said.

Jay Aubin was married, and was the father of 10-year-old Alicia and 7-year-old Nathan. The family lives in Yuma, Ariz., Carol Aubin said.

Despite her stepson's death, Carol Aubin remains adamant in her support of the war effort.

"He was just a brave, courageous, young man and there's so many of them over there. And so many Iraqi women have lost their sons, and it's time to put a stop to it, and get some decent people in there as rulers," she said.

day, his parents were in Texas visiting their daughter and son-in-law when they learned of his death.

His mother, Judy, kept saying: "I knew it. I knew it. I just knew it," said her son-in-law, Richard Brown, an Army sergeant based at nearby Fort Hood.

"He was living his dream," Brown said in Sunday's editions of The New York Times.

"He's one of those gung-ho, whoo-wa Marines. He wanted to do the Marine thing since he could spell 'Marine.' If he was going to die, he wanted to die in battle."

"The hardest thing about this death is that I am going to the same place where it happened," said Brown, 31. "I kept telling my wife not to worry about her brother. 'He's trained, he's professional, he knows his job,' I would tell her. But now I can't say that anymore. She won't believe me."

Another U.S. soldier, a member of the 101st Airborne Division from Fort Campbell, Ky., was killed Sunday when a grenade was thrown into a military tent in Kuwait. The soldier's name was not released.

The deaths of Childers and Gutierrez added to the grief at Camp Pendleton, which was already mourning the loss of three Marines killed during the crash of a CH-46 helicopter. A fourth Marine, based in Yuma, Ariz., and eight British marines also died when the helicopter went down Friday in Kuwait. The cause of the crash is being investigated.

The news spread quickly in Oceanside, the town that borders the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps base.

"It kills us," said Michael Dye, a clerk at Kingsmen Cleaners, which caters to Marines. "They're all great gentlemen and young ladies. They're all really mature for their age, and it seems like they're awful polite."

Before the recent round of deployments, the business on Coast Highway saw a rush of servicemen and women wanting to have their uniforms "as clean as we can make 'em" before heading off to war, he said.

A number of Marines serving at Camp Pendleton have died in recent military operations and training. One was killed in October 2002 by gunmen in Kuwait, and another was wounded in the drive-by attack. Three others were wounded in December 2001 by a land-mine explosion near the airport at Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Associated Press Writer Michelle Morgante contributed to this report

# Reports say U.S. forces building in north

BY BORZOU DARAGAH

*The Associated Press*

SULAYMANIYAH, Iraq — American planes landed in the Kurdish-controlled north of Iraq and launched additional airstrikes against a militant Islamic group with alleged al-Qaida and Baghdad ties — signs that the United States' northern front against the Iraqi government appears to be picking up steam.

A high-level Kurdish official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said four American planes carrying "scores" of American military personnel landed at the Bakrajo airstrip, 10 miles west of Sulaymaniyah, late Saturday night.

Military officials said the additional United States aerial attacks, begun Friday night, were launched against suspected positions of Ansar al Islam Saturday night.

A high-level Kurdish official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said four American planes carrying "scores" of American personnel — mostly special operations — landed at the Bakrajo airstrip late Saturday night. Military officials said the additional U.S. aerial attacks, begun Friday night, were launched against suspected positions of Ansar al Islam on Saturday night.

There were no details about casualties. The previous night's assault left scores dead, mostly members of another

Islamist group accused of supporting Ansar, according to military officials.

The high-level political official more American planes and personnel were scheduled to arrive in coming days and added that planes may have also landed at other airstrips in the Kurdish autonomous area, under American and British aerial protection since the 1991 Persian Gulf War. The official said the American planes were originally scheduled to land two months ago, but were tied up as Americans attempted to sort out a military strategy.

Ansar as well as the Baghdad-controlled cities of Kirkuk and Mosul are possible targets for the American military personnel, said the official.

The Arabic-language TV station Al Jazeera, reporting from Sulaymaniyah, quoted witnesses as saying that U.S. airborne troops landed by helicopter at a base near the city.

The station quoted Kurdish sources as saying the number of troops is too small for opening a northern front, and that the airlift is intended to reassure Turkey, which fought a Kurdish insurgency in its own territory for years and is afraid that the Kurds of neighboring Iraq will gain strength as Saddam's regime is overthrown.

Barham Salih, prime minister of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan government, which controls the eastern half of

the autonomous Kurdish enclave, declined to officially confirm the landing of American forces, but said such an incursion would be received warmly by the mostly pro-American Kurds, who have been living under U.S. and British aerial protection since the "Americans are liberators," he said. "They are welcome in Iraq and they are welcome in Kurdistan. They are welcome to come here and help bring us freedom."

The Kurdish official said the planes landed in darkness, using no lights, and left as soon as the personnel left. Residents living near Bakrajo airstrip described loud, strange noises late Saturday night, and four buses leaving the area.

Small groups of American clandestine services operatives have been scouring the countryside for months. The Kurds have long awaited more Americans, and their presence here have abounded.

Mohammad Haji Mahmoud, leader of the Kurdistan Social Democratic Party and a key member of the Iraqi opposition, said the Americans are welcome to use Kurdistan as a staging ground for a northern assault against the Baghdad regime.

"We're not going to say no to anything the Americans want," he said. "America is the true liberator and the only one who could liberate us from this regime. We couldn't do it with our rusty Kalashnikovs in more than 40 years."

## Mail: Coming soon to a camp near you

BY DAVID JOSAR

*Stars and Stripes*

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait — The U.S. general who oversees mail delivery said he has taken steps to ensure that letters and parcels continue getting to troops even as the amount of mail grows.

Army Brig. Gen. Sean Byrne said more planes, better sorting facilities and a strategy to get letters to forward-deployed combat locations should eliminate glitches that angered troops and their families during the last Gulf War.

Mail, Byrne noted, may be the second-most important moment of a soldier's day. The first is chow. And letters can be nearly as important to

troops as their weapon and ammunition when they go into combat.

"The letters aren't left behind on a night stand or on a cot when they go into battle," said Byrne. "They are taken along and read over and over."

Mail delivery was a sticking point for troops during Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield when flights that ferried the mail to the Gulf were canceled, and the parcels and notes stacked up in the United States.

"Everything is coming though," Byrne said Saturday during a tour of the Joint Mail Terminal, a compound of warehouses that the Kuwaiti military had used to store ve-

hicles but now is the temporary home to mountains of parcels.

On Saturday, containers of parcels and letters were unloaded from trucks and rolled down a wheeled ramp, where soldiers and Marines sorted them into piles for individual units. Mail for units that have entered combat are being put into storage containers and will be delivered as soon as the units are in a semi-permanent location.

If those troops move again shortly, Byrne said, only the letters will be moved forward. The packages will arrive once a unit is stable, he said.

Most of the mail will be moved using trucks, although airlift is another possibility, Byrne said.

For any troops who die in combat, said Byrne, their letters and parcels will be forwarded to their families after their next of kin has been notified.

Over the past six weeks, mail flow for the American troops into Kuwait has increased from 75,000 pounds a day to around 225,000 pounds a day.

Mail from Germany and Europe, McKown said, should arrive in three to five days to Kuwait, and letters and packages from the United States should arrive in 12 to 13 days. Roughly 70 soldiers, 45 Marines and 30 civilian contractors staff the Joint Mail Terminal.

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# Americans face off on war with Iraq

BY TARA BURGHART

*The Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Anti-war activists marched again Saturday in dozens of cities, marshaling more than 100,000 in Manhattan and sometimes trading insults with backers of the U.S.-led war on Iraq.

War backers rallied too, often by the thousands, with American flags and chants of "USA!"

In Chicago, some of about 800 troop supporters came within 20 feet of a small group of anti-war activists outside a federal building. As the protesters shouted "killers, killers, killers," a military backer yelled back "idiots, idiots, idiots." Later, about 500 anti-war protesters marched around the same building.

Carrying peace signs and wearing costumes, demonstrators in New York spanned 30 blocks as they marched down Broadway toward Washington Square Park. Unofficial police estimates put the crowd at more than 125,000; United for Peace and Justice, the march organizers, estimated the crowd at more than 250,000.

"I believe if you really want to show 'shock and awe,' you should show love and justice," said marcher Bob Edgar, an officer at the National Council of Churches.

Some celebrities joined in,

including actors Roy Scheider, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, and singer Patti Smith.

"We support the troops, but we do not support the president," said Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., a Korean War veteran.

About 2,000 police were assigned to the rally, including undercover officers with beeper-sized radiation detectors and other counterterrorism measures.

After the permit for the march expired at 4 p.m., several hundred protesters refused officers' orders to clear the area, and some scuffled with police. Hundreds of police in riot gear and officers on horseback pulled one protester after another out of the crowd and placed them in a police truck.

Police said about 90 people were arrested. Protesters said police used pepper spray, and police said 16 officers were getting medical treatment after being sprayed with an unknown substance.

Tens of thousands protested in San Francisco after two days of anti-war rallies in which about 2,200 were arrested.

San Francisco police on Friday vowed to be more aggressive in controlling the crowds. The latest demonstration was peaceful, although police arrested 10 people —

mostly for failing to disperse — as the rally stretched into the evening.

In Hollywood, war protesters marched down Sunset Boulevard, complaining that news coverage is slanted. One sign showed a photo of an Iraqi mother with a wounded child and said, "Collateral damage has a face."

Los Angeles police, who estimated the crowd at between 2,500 and 3,000 people, arrested 78 people, mostly for failing to disperse.

In Washington, several hundred protesters, chanting "No blood for oil," strode through the streets and rallied in front of the White House. Their pink and orange signs read "No war against Iraq" and "Money for unemployment, not war."

Two protesters were arrested. One of them pushed an officer off his bicycle, police said.

In Chicopee, Mass., 53 of about 1,500 protesters were arrested when they blocked a road to Westover Air Reserve Base during an anti-war rally.

Sixteen protesters were arrested on trespassing charges when they refused to leave Iowa's National Guard headquarters, in Johnston.

In El Prado, N.M., anti-war activists lay down in front of the part-time home of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who wasn't there.

In Reno, Nev., about 200 pro-military demonstrators crashed a smaller anti-war protest, drowning out peace hymns with chants of "USA" and "Support our troops."

More than 5,000 backers of the American military demonstrated at a baseball stadium in Millington, Tenn., home to a military base.

Ricky Hunt held a poster with an 8-by-10 photograph of a young Marine he knows in Iraq. He also slung a Marine Corps flag over his shoulder.

"We're really tired of all the protesters. I don't understand them. I think they ought to remember where they got their freedom," Hunt said.

An estimated 15,000 pro-military demonstrators crammed shoulder-to-shoulder, prayed, and sang patriotic songs in Auburn, Ind. Similar numbers massed in St. Paul, Minn.

In Lansing, Mich., war supporters rallied at the state Capitol with American flags. Patriotic music rang out, and the crowd of hundreds chanted "USA." Similar rallies attracted thousands in Jefferson City, Mo.; Charleston, S.C.; Bear, Del.; and Raleigh, N.C.

In Louisville, Ky., about 400 young military wives, leather-clad bikers, veterans and others also massed and declared solidarity with U.S. soldiers.

## New war coins new phrases, but will they stick?

BY SUSAN REIMER

*The Baltimore Sun*

World War II gave us "beachhead," "firepower" and "foxhole."

Vietnam contributed "friendly fire," "grunt," and "hawks and doves" to everyday language.

But for the war in Iraq to contribute any lasting vocabulary to the English language, "it has to be the long and painful experience that everyone hopes it won't be," says Geoffrey Nunberg, a Stanford University linguist.

The Persian Gulf conflict is only days

old, and already certain words are sounding very familiar: "embedded," and "shock and awe," among them.

But they will fade, Nunberg says. "Mother of all" survived so long after the first Persian Gulf War because it became a punch line in jokes, the author of "The Way We Talk Now" said.

"'Shock and awe' might have a chance at that," he said. "But most will just be military terms used by journalists — who want to sound like they are in the know — and they will fade."

"I mean, when was the last time you heard anybody use the phrase 'hanging chad'?"

Among the phrases that could be included in an Iraq war glossary are:

■ "Audible" — a football term for changing a play at the last moment, used to describe the decision to alter U.S. attack plans.

■ "Coalition of the willing" — describes the countries backing the U.S. war on Iraq; first uttered in November.

■ "Crowd-pleaser" — nickname for 5,000-pound "bunker buster" bombs that can punch through 30 feet of rock or reinforced concrete.

■ "Decapitation" — used to describe the aim of the war's opening missile attack against Saddam Hussein.

## Flag flap

*The Associated Press*

CAMP AS SAY-LIYAH, Qatar — It was, said Gen. Tommy Franks, an understandable thing to do — American Marines, raising the flag after moving into the southern Iraqi city of Umm Qasr.

Still, he's glad they took the flag down.

"I think that, in zeal, people will want to represent that they have achieved a certain milestone," Franks said at his briefing Saturday.

"And if you're from our country, then one of the first things that can pop into the young man's mind is to raise his national colors."

But the general said he "found it to be much more instructive that immediately following that, in recognizing that his job had to do with liberation and not occupation, that he quickly brought down his colors."

The incident in Umm Qasr on Friday set off a minor controversy.

"It would be singularly unfortunate if the Stars and Stripes was, for example, planted over the parliament building in Baghdad at a future stage," said Crispin Blunt, a Conservative member of the British Parliament.

British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon had promised to discuss the issue with U.S. officials, but he too tried to put the moment in perspective.

"It is necessary to understand how, at the end of what was a vigorous confrontation, any soldiers are likely to feel the need to demonstrate their success, which I suspect is what happened overnight," he said.

# Sirens keep Marines on edge

BY PETER BAKER

*The Washington Post*

CAMP COMMANDO, Kuwait — The whistle of incoming fire is distinctive. Once heard, it's not forgotten. But even those who know the sound have only a second or two to process the warning before the explosion rocks the ground beneath them.

"Get into the bunker! Get into the bunker!"

Someone is shouting. Actually, a lot of people are shouting. This isn't a drill. Diving to the floor is the first thought, but it's the wrong one. Get out. Jump from the trailer. Run. The bunker is that way. There is an edge of barely suppressed panic in the voices of the Marines.

Some have experienced this before; most have not. Most are 18 or 19, just in grade school during the Scud barrages of the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

The older sergeants keep their heads and make sure the young ones set out for the shelter.

There is still no siren. But the roar of the explosion was unmistakable. Bodies stumble over each other, sprinting to the bunker.

A look back is a mistake. A large plume of black smoke and dust rises above the camp, just a little ways away. Is it smoke? Or maybe gas? Where is that gas mask? Where's the damn mask? Wait, it's in the little green satchel attached to the hip, right where it's supposed to be.

Fumbling for the mask. Where are those straps? Bodies pushing, shoving into the bunker. Everyone trying to cram inside. Impossible to pull the mask on. Just press it against the face until things calm down. Push it tight, have to get a seal, no air from the outside can get in. Don't worry about the straps. Just hold it tight.

More bodies trying to find cover. The bunker is a concrete hutch, maybe four feet tall and 25 feet long. Sandbags surround the entrance and the sides. Already inside Scud Bunker B-3 are perhaps 40 Marines, helmets on, gas masks on, rifles stuck between their legs as they sit on the dirt or on each other. A few try standing, hunched halfway over.

"Move in! Move in!"

It's hard to breathe. Everyone's huffing, gasping for air. It's impossible to get a breath. Is it gas? No, no, everyone's just winded.

Take a breath. Settle down. Hearts are racing. Still hard to breathe.

The mask is suffocating. The only way to get a deep breath is to take it off. Can't do that. Is there another explosion? What's happened with that plume? Is it coming this way? This is not a drill.

"Calm down! Calm down!"

The Marines begin to calm down, just a bit. They can only see each other's eyes, warped by the bug-eyed lenses of the gas masks. There is fear, yes, and adrenaline and uncertainty and most of all shock.

The missile attack Thursday was Iraq's first shot of the war. And it had been at them.

The rule in the morning had been that everyone would start to wear flak jackets and helmets, but the rule had been rescinded just a few minutes before the Iraqi missile exploded in a fireball near the camp.

The shouting and the confusion have begun to die down. Sobbing emerges from the other side of the bunker. A couple of the base's Arab employees have fled into the bunker, too, but they have no gas masks.

One of them is heaving with tears.

"Someone comfort him," a major orders.

A Marine stands up, climbs over his buddies to reach the worker.

"You're all right," he is saying, putting his arm around him. "It's going to be OK." It's not clear whether the words register, but the gesture does. The Marine points to the thick concrete wall to signal that it would protect him. The man regains control and settles down.

A few minutes after the explosion, the early-warning siren finally goes off. A voice echoes around the base. "Attention, Camp Commando. Attention Camp Commando." It is known as "the Big Giant Voice" even on official military documents and notices. But this time it's hard to

hear. What's he saying? Something about getting into the bunkers.

Ten minutes pass, fifteen. No more explosions. Big Giant Voice says something about NBC teams — nuclear, biological and chemical — confirming there was no gas. Marines in the bunker slump back in relief, some of the tension draining out of their shoulders.

Humor returns. Grim jokes about the accuracy of the Patriot antimissile system.

The dozens of Marines lumped on top of each other in the cramped bunker begin sharing personal stories.

Eventually, a captain pulls out a disposable camera. "Group picture," someone calls out. The flash goes off.

The sound of Cobra attack helicopters buzzing overhead offers some reassurance. After an hour, Big Giant Voice weighs in again. "All clear. All clear." The masks come off.

Back to work, but not long afterward, the siren suddenly goes off.

A scramble to the bunker again. Mad shoving, pushing. Must get in. Not enough room. Make way!

Sixteen times over 27 hours Marines are sent racing to the bunkers or their masks. Sixteen times the hearts race and the adrenaline runs and it never quite becomes routine.

Deep into the night, no one bothers to banter anymore. The cameras have been put away.

The only sound in the darkened bunker is the heavy breathing in the masks. Except someone has a phone, someone is being told of possible trouble nearby.

"North of Commando? We don't have anyone there, do we?" Pause.

"Are they going to shoot it?"

Long pause.

Finally someone says, "I think I liked Afghanistan better."

More silence. Big Giant Voice gives the all-clear and Marines start to get out of the bunker.

"Might as well stay here," sighs one. "They'll call another one in a few minutes."

Outside, the masks come off. Then the siren comes back on. She was right. Get to the bunkers. This is not a drill.



# U.N. envoy: N. Korea anxious over U.S. plans

*The Associated Press*

BEIJING — North Korea is preparing for possible war with the United States and is concerned about Washington's intentions after its attack on Iraq, said a U.N. envoy who returned Saturday from the North.

North Korean officials say missile tests and other recent steps that have unsettled its neighbors were meant as preparation for such a conflict, said Maurice Strong, a Canadian aide to Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Strong was visiting Pyongyang as part of U.N. efforts to mediate the North's nuclear crisis with the United States.

South Korea put its military on heightened alert this week, and on Saturday the North retaliated by canceling economic talks scheduled for next week. That could mean

it also will suspend more important inter-Korean talks next month aimed at easing nuclear tensions.

The United States says it wants a peaceful settlement to the dispute. But the U.S. war in Iraq is getting intense study from North Korean officials, Strong said.

"They are watching it very carefully and with deep concern, and questioning what this means in terms of the U.S. ultimate intentions toward them," Strong said.

Asked whether North Korean leaders feared they would be the next target of U.S. military action after Iraq, Strong said, "Fear I do not believe is in their vocabulary. Concern, yes, real determination to seek a peaceful settlement. At the same time, preparation for war, if necessary."

Strong did not say specify

how he knew about the military preparations, and gave no details. He said officials expressed "deep concern for the threats that they perceive to their own security, and a determination to defend their security and their integrity."

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula have been high since Washington said in October that the North had admitted starting a nuclear weapons program in violation of a 1994 agreement.

Strong said he met with "very senior people," but wouldn't give their names or other details. He said he was conveying "guidance and information" between the two sides but couldn't discuss it before he reports to Annan. Both Washington and Pyongyang have said they want a peaceful settlement, and Strong said North Korean officials expressed optimism that one was still possible.

## Civilians investigate AF academy

*The Associated Press*

DENVER — For the first time since a sexual assault scandal broke within the Air Force Academy, civilian authorities are investigating an allegation, a prosecutor said Saturday.

"Essentially one of the victims contacted our office and asked if we would consider state charges. So we are reviewing that at this time," said Dan May, assistant El Paso County district attorney.

He declined to release any details about the allegation.

The district attorney has concurrent jurisdiction at the academy, and the sheriff's department also has an agreement allowing it to investigate cases there, May said.

The Air Force has two investigations under way at the academy into allegations that female cadets were reprimanded or ostracized for reporting sexual assaults. The Defense Department's inspector general plans to start its own investigation by the end of March.

The Air Force says there have been at least 56 reports of sexual assaults of female cadets over the last decade.

Critics of the academy have said the only way to find the truth is to have a civilian investigation.

The scandal, which has been discussed during U.S. Senate hearings, likely will be the subject of hearings in the House.

Both Democrats and Republicans have demanded action, and U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., has called for the dismissal of top academy commanders.

May said many factors will have to be taken into account when a decision is made on whether to prosecute anyone. They include a 10-year Colorado statute of limitations on sex crimes, whether evidence is still available, and the fact that witnesses could be spread all over the globe.

## Mideast Notebook: Facing the prospect of own mortality, soldiers find ways to cope

**STEVE LIEWER**

*Stars and Stripes*

Death may be a soldier's wartime companion, but some of these fresh-faced young troops are meeting it face to face for the first time in Kuwait.

In the first few weeks of this desert showdown, camp life settled into a routine of daytime work and training followed by evenings of cards, video games and DVD movies.

The conditions were crude, but the routine vaguely resembled life back home. Certainly there was little talk of fighting and death.

Many of the soldiers in Kuwait joined the service as an inviting career option. In the prosperous '90s, with the Cold War in America's rear view mirror, the idea of dying in combat seemed distant and quaint.

Now, with troops packing up their Humvees and trucks and heading north to war, suddenly death doesn't seem quite so far away.

Chaplains report a sharp upturn in church attendance. Many soldiers are taking them aside to ask about death and heaven and God.

"In troubled times, we yearn for salvation," said Capt. Martin Kendrick, chaplain for the 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment. "Suddenly, Bibles and rosary beads are hot commodities."

Kendrick's unit, a UH-60 Black Hawk

airlift battalion, was bloodied before anyone else in Kuwait. Last month, only two weeks after arriving at Camp Udairi, two pilots and two crew chiefs died in a crash after a sudden sandstorm engulfed their aircraft. A day later, a sad unit held a memorial service for the four men.

That evening I learned firsthand how much death stings, even in the Army.

A young Puerto Rican soldier from a Germany-based aviation unit asked me as we sat on our cots if I knew the names of the victims, whether any were Puerto Rican.

I told him none came from the island, although one crew chief, Spc. Rodrigo Gonzalez, had a Spanish surname. I showed him a photograph.

A stunned look crossed the soldier's face. Then his eyes filled with tears.

"That guy, he was my friend," he said, his voice full of misery.

I wanted to comfort him. I didn't know how.

"Your buddy, he was a good guy," was all I could think to say.

The soldier lay down and wept silently into the pile of clothes he used as a pillow, his M-16 underneath the cot. From time to time he would look up with red-rimmed eyes, talking quietly in Spanish to a sergeant lying nearby.

After awhile, his friend handed him a pocket Bible. Then the soldier wept some more.

Chaplain Kendrick talked to many grieving soldiers in the days after the Black Hawk crash. He said death affects different groups of soldiers in different ways.

Some of the veterans who lived through Desert Storm are now married

with children. They realized death means more when loved ones depend on you than when you are young and single and feel immortal.

Some mid-grade officers and soldiers who had looked forward to war as a way to earn battle patches and combat ribbons have begun to wonder whether decorations are a good reason to risk their lives.

Some junior soldiers are simply wondering what they have gotten themselves into.

The Army now makes allowances for mourning. But during the run-up to this war, there has been little time to spare. The units that arrived in Kuwait in the last two months especially have worked at a feverish pace.

Commanders like to train their soldiers hard so they have less time to think about combat and gain more confidence in their own skills.

Most soldiers here think this war will be a walkover, with more Iraqis raising their arms in surrender than firing arms in anger. But a little fear is always there, and commanders agree it's a healthy thing.

They worry more about the gung-ho youngster who looks forward to battle than the one with a prudent fear.

In Kuwait, there are plenty of young men and women who are eager to give the Iraqis the butt-kicking they deserve.

And there is a young soldier, crying quietly on his cot for the friend he will never see again.

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## Homicide charges

PHILADELPHIA — Prosecutors plan to file homicide charges against a couple accused of starving an 18-year-old boy, then putting the dying teen on a bus and sending him to find his estranged father in Florida, a defense attorney said.

Paul Hoffman and Lyda Miller have been jailed on assault charges since September, when Miller's emaciated son, Chester, knocked on a stranger's door in Milton, Fla., after a two-day bus trip and begged for help.

The teen was delirious and weighed less than 65 pounds when he was admitted to a Florida hospital. He died four days later.

According to prosecutors, Chester said before he died that he had been beaten and starved for months by his mother and Hoffman, her live-in boyfriend. A medical examiner in Florida this past week declared the death a homicide, clearing the way for the criminal charge.

Hoffman and Miller have both denied starving the boy.

## 'Light' cigarettes case

EDWARDSVILLE, Ill. — Philip Morris USA has lost the first class-action lawsuit in the nation to come to trial alleging a tobacco company committed consumer fraud in its advertising of light cigarettes.

Judge Nicholas Byron ordered Philip Morris on Friday to pay \$10.1 billion for misleading smokers into believing its "light" cigarettes are less harmful than regular labels.

The company said it would appeal.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs said the ruling would pave the way for similar cases. Unlike many other high-profile cigarette-related lawsuits, the plaintiffs did not claim that smoking made them sick.

They said Philip Morris, maker of Marlboro Lights and Cambridge Lights cigarettes, knew the light brands were just as unhealthy as regular cigarettes when it introduced them in the 1970s, but marketed them as a healthier alternative.

From wire reports

# Stepping up food security

BY EMILY GERSEMA

*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — With war in Iraq, fears are increasing in the United States that terrorists could target what people eat. Food makers are taking steps to protect their products and employees, erecting security fences, hiring more guards and screening visitors at plants.

But it is uncertain how prepared processors are for someone who might try to slip harmful bacteria or chemicals into food products, according to a recent audit by congressional investigators.

The General Accounting Office said the problem is that companies are not required to share their plans with the government.

Gene Grabowski, spokesman for the Grocery Manufacturers of America, said that despite those concerns, plants have made substantial improvements since Sept. 11, 2001.

"They are taking a lot of very effective steps but they don't want to undermine their

security measures by discussing them in public," he said.

The industry is shy about publicity. Some companies refuse to talk at all about their security plans; others are willing to discuss them in only the vaguest of terms.

Spice maker McCormick & Company Inc. is preparing for security threats beyond deliberate food poisoning "because of the level of threats — things like dirty bombs and those kinds of threats that can threaten whole areas of the country simultaneously," said William Ramsey, the company's security director.

While not providing details about what the Maryland company is doing, Ramsey said McCormick has gone so far as to prepare for a worst-case scenario: an attack that would force employees to leave the plant and their homes.

"We feel it's prudent to do so," he said.

Worries about the potential for poisoned food grew last week when the government raised the terror alert to or-

ange from yellow, a warning that the United States is at high risk of an attack.

Threats to the food supply come from harmful bacteria that can cause food-poisoning, or deadly contaminants such as cyanide or ricin, a poison made from castor beans that can appear as a powder, mist or pellet.

It is difficult to gauge the industry's level of preparedness.

Experts are uncertain whether plants are ready.

Lt. Col. Larry Barrett, an official for the Air Force who has advised processors on risks, bristled at the question of preparedness. "To me, that's like asking: Is the food safe? Like anything else, I think you have to take it seriously."

The government does not consider food processors likely terrorist targets in comparison to high-profile structures such as the Golden Gate Bridge. But, said spokesman David Wray of the Homeland Security Department, "We do have some general information that indicates that it's a concern."

## Wet winter quenches East Coast's drought

*The Associated Press*

PHILADELPHIA — A snowy and rainy winter has pulled the East Coast out of its five-year drought, replenishing lakes and aquifers from Georgia to Maine.

Coastal states averaged about 25 percent more precipitation than the typical 3 to 4 inches a month from October to March, according to the National Weather Service. Virginia recorded its 10th wettest winter in 108 years and Maryland its 11th.

"That really did the trick," said Douglas LeComte, a drought specialist with the weather service's Climate Prediction Center in Camp Springs, Md. "I think it's going to stay ended."

The U.S. Geological Survey

confirmed the drought's end but said northern Maine and parts of Vermont still have drought conditions.

In Georgia, all the moisture has been a mixed blessing. It sweetens the world-famous Vidalia onion but also prevents farmers from spraying for destructive bacteria and fungi.

Already there are sporadic reports of damage to the state's \$80 million onion crop, which will be harvested from mid-April into June.

"We prayed a little too much" for rain, said Cale Blocker, 24, who has 450 acres of onions.

Up and down the East Coast, wells are at or above normal levels, even the deepest ones in the Mid-Atlantic

region. Many haven't been this high since 1998, LeComte said.

Throughout the Delaware River basin, which covers parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Delaware, officials reported that reservoir and ground water levels have dramatically increased since last year.

"The snow over the winter definitely helped," said Clarke Rupert, a spokesman for the Delaware River Basin Commission. "What a difference a year makes."

Similar increases are taking place on the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, where the city of Philadelphia gets its water.

Across the area, water levels should only get higher as more snow melts.



# Scientists close in on deadly virus

BY EMMA ROSS  
*The Associated Press*

LONDON — Scientists believe they have found the virus responsible for the mystery illness that has sickened hundreds of people worldwide and are perfecting a test to diagnose it, the World Health Organization announced Saturday.

The advances, by the University of Hong Kong, are considered an important step in slowing the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, and bring scientists closer to determining how best to treat it.

The progress comes less than a week after the World Health Organization pulled together expertise from 11 laboratories around the world in an unprecedented collaboration to hunt down the disease.

"We can be relatively sure that we have now found the causative agent," said Dr. Klaus Stohr, a WHO virologist who is coordinating the global laboratory network.

"We know what it is. It is the SARS virus. But, to which virus family it belongs, we don't know yet," he added.

Some researchers believe it is a new type of paramyxovirus, but studies from other labs suggest it may belong to another virus family. The virus, isolated from the lung tissue of a patient who died from SARS, is the basis for the diagnostic test, which Stohr said could be available to labs by the end of next week and in the hands of hospital doctors shortly afterward.

The test would make it possible for doctors to quickly weed out and isolate patients with the new disease. The development of the diagnostic test was announced Friday, but experts were cautious because the results had not been confirmed by further experiments. By Saturday its accuracy had been verified in eight more patients and more details were released.

"The consistency of these findings indicates that the test is reliably identifying cases of SARS infection," the WHO said.

SARS has made 386 people around the world ill and killed 11 people in the past

three weeks, according to WHO figures. Experts suspect it is linked to an earlier outbreak of an unidentified disease in China, where officials say 305 people have fallen ill and five have died.

Hong Kong remains the most seriously affected area, with more than half the total cases. Vietnam and Singapore have also been hit hard. The United States has reported 22 suspected cases, according to the latest WHO figures.

The State Department on Saturday warned Americans not to travel to Vietnam, one of the first countries affected.

In Hong Kong, three grade schools with sick students were closed for disinfection. Singapore, meanwhile, said it would empty one of its main hospitals and dedicate it to coping with the disease.

"This spectacular achievement is an example of what the world can do when the intellectual resources of nations around the world are focused on a single problem," Stohr said. "This rapid advance is fueling the hope that SARS can and will be contained."

## 'Far from Heaven' proves indie spirit with awards sweep

*The Associated Press*

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — "Far From Heaven" swept the Independent Spirit Awards on Saturday, gathering five awards, including best feature.

"Far from Heaven" also won honors for best director for Todd Haynes, female lead for Julianne Moore, male supporting lead for Dennis Quaid and cinematography.

The movie stars Moore as a wife whose picture-perfect domestic life crumbles after her husband begins an affair with another man and she has a dalliance with her black gardener.

The nonprofit Independent Feature Project/Los Angeles-presented awards honor movies that have been at least partially independently financed. Nominees are expected to have an original and provocative subject matter, been produced economically and show a "uniqueness of vision."

Director John Waters served as master of ceremonies, with actress Halle Berry as honorary chair. Elvis Costello performed live during the ceremonies, held in a tent on the Santa Monica beach.

A partial list of this year's Independent Spirit Award winners: Best Feature: "Far from Heaven"; Best Director: Todd Haynes, "Far from Heaven"; Best Screenplay: Mike White, "The Good Girl"; Best First Feature: "The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys"; Best Female Lead: Julianne Moore, "Far from Heaven"; Best Male Lead: Derek Luke, "Antwone Fisher"; Best Supporting Female: Emily Mortimer, "Lovely & Amazing"; Best Supporting Male: Dennis Quaid, "Far from Heaven"; Best Foreign Film: "Y Tu Mama Tambien."

## U.S. spy plane tracked

MOSCOW — The Russian Defense Ministry said it deployed two fighters Saturday to track a U.S. spy plane flying near the Russian border with neighboring Georgia.

Russian air defense systems locked on to the American U-2 plane as it began its flight over the former Soviet republic of Georgia, ministry spokesman Nikolai Deryabin was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies.

"To prevent the possible breach of the Russian border, two destroyers were sent up," Deryabin was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

It was not immediately clear what the plane was doing.

## Chechens give up arms

VLADIKAVKAZ, Russia — In an apparent gesture of conciliation, 46 Chechen rebels surrendered their weapons to Russian troops on Saturday, the eve of a constitutional referendum aimed at bringing peace to the troubled region.

President Vladimir Putin has said the referendum will promote peace, but critics say it's

a cosmetic change and won't do anything to discourage rebels who attack Russian troops almost every day.

Hundreds of protesters also rallied in the capital, Grozny, on Saturday, many carrying photographs of killed or missing relatives.

"Putin, give us our children back," said one of the signs they carried. "A referendum held on blood," said another.

## 28 baby girls found

BEIJING — Police found 28 baby girls hidden in nylon suitcases aboard a long-distance bus in southern China, apparently being smuggled for sale, an officer and a newspaper said Saturday.

Officers acting on a tip made the discovery Monday when the bus stopped at an expressway toll plaza in Binyang, a town in the Guangxi region, the Beijing Morning News said. Guangxi, on China's southern coast west of Hong Kong, is one of the country's poorest areas.

An officer of the Guangxi traffic police in Binyang confirmed the discovery of the babies.

From The Associated Press

**Mavericks 102, Suns 95**

DALLAS — Dirk Nowitzki scored 16 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter despite foul trouble, and Steve Nash had 27 points and 13 assists.

The Mavericks improved their league-best record to 52-17.

Shawn Marion had 21 points and 18 rebounds to lead Phoenix, while Penny Hardaway had a season-high 21 points and Stephon Marbury added 20.

The Mavs trailed by seven entering the fourth quarter, but went ahead for good at 79-76 with 10:28 left on consecutive three-pointers from Nowitzki and Walt Williams.

**Kings 113, Trail Blazers 104**

PORTLAND, Ore. — Peja Stojakovic scored 30 points and Chris Webber had 25 points, 15 rebounds and six assists as Sacramento rode a dominant third quarter.

Mike Bibby added 23 points and eight assists for the Kings, who won their third in a row and eighth in 10 games.

The Kings put on a show in the third period, turning a four-point halftime deficit into a 16-point lead on the strength of 18-for-22 shooting for 42 points — a season-high both for Sacramento offensively and the Blazers defensively.

Bibby, Webber and Stojakovic led the way, combining for 33 points in the period.

Rasheed Wallace had 31 points, six

**NBA**

rebounds and four assists to lead the Blazers.

**Jazz 91, Clippers 82**

SALT LAKE CITY — Andrei Kirilenko had 17 points and six blocked shots as Utah held the Los Angeles Clippers to the lowest field goal percentage in franchise history.

Even though the Clippers shot 10-for-21 in the fourth quarter during garbage time, they finished at 26.3 percent (21-for-80). The previous franchise low was 26.8 percent against Houston on Feb. 28, 2000.

Matt Harpring scored 14 points and grabbed 10 rebounds while Karl Malone added 13 as the Jazz won their third in a row.

Corey Maggette led Los Angeles with 13 points.

**Nuggets 90, Celtics 80**

DENVER — Juwan Howard had 27 points and seven rebounds to lead Denver to their first victory over Boston in their past nine meetings.

Howard shot 11-for-18 and Nene Hilario added 16 points for the Nuggets, who last beat the Celtics on Nov. 15, 1996 in Boston.

Denver snapped a four-game losing streak.

Paul Pierce had 31 points for the Cel-

tics, who lost their fourth straight. Antoine Walker added 21 but was scoreless in the second half.

**Hawks 92, Pacers 89**

ATLANTA — Theo Ratliff blocked a potential game-winning dunk by Jermaine O'Neal in the final seconds Saturday night to help Atlanta to a 92-89 victory over Indiana, sending the Pacers to their 11th consecutive road loss.

With 6.4 seconds remaining and Atlanta leading 90-89, O'Neal took an in-bounds pass and drove down the left side of the lane past Shareef Abdur-Rahim. O'Neal jumped for a dunk, but Ratliff, who was guarding Brad Miller, instead moved in for his ninth block.

Dion Glover hit two free throws to end the scoring with six-tenths of a second remaining.

**Nets 107, Grizzlies 99**

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Kerry Kittles scored 25 points, Jason Kidd had a season-high 18 assists and New Jersey rode a 64-point first half.

Kenyon Martin and Richard Jefferson added 17 points apiece for the Nets, who opened a 1½-game lead over idle Philadelphia in the Atlantic Division.

Jason Williams had six three-pointers, 24 points and 11 assists and Pau Gasol added 21 points for Memphis,

which is still 12-9 since the All-Star break.

**Bucks 93, Hornets 85**

MILWAUKEE — Sam Cassell scored 11 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter Saturday as Milwaukee gave George Karl his 700th win as an NBA coach.

The Bucks (34-36) took a one-game lead on idle Washington for the eighth playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Baron Davis led New Orleans with 20 points and Jamal Mashburn scored 18. The Hornets shot 52 percent on Friday night in a 113-98 victory over Milwaukee, but struggled offensively Saturday. New Orleans shot just 40.5 percent from the field and missed nine of 19 free throws while turning the ball over 21 times.

**Bulls 100, Knicks 98**

CHICAGO — Eddy Curry scored a career-high 30 points and Jamal Crawford added 22 points and 10 assists.

The Knicks, trying to climb into the eighth playoff spot in the East, were playing their fourth game in five nights and shot only 39 percent.

The Bulls' fresher and younger legs were evident, especially those of Curry and Crawford in the fourth quarter when Chicago held off a late rally.

Jalen Rose scored 16 points and Tyson Chandler added 13 points and 13 rebounds for Chicago. Crawford, who shot 10-for-15, just missed a triple-double with nine rebounds.

From The Associated Press

**WEST  
Arizona 96, Gonzaga 95 (20T)**

SALT LAKE CITY — Arizona moves on, but not before a double-overtime thriller that ranks with the best in NCAA tournament history.

Salim Stoudamire, quiet most of the intense evening, scored five points in the second overtime as the Wildcats, the West's No. 1 seed, held off ninth-seeded Gonzaga 96-95 Saturday.

**NCAA**

Stoudamire's floater in the lane with 2:03 left in the second overtime were the game's final points. Gonzaga had numerous chances to take the lead but failed.

Tony Skinner, whose career-high 25 points included 5-for-11 shooting on three-pointers, missed an open three with four seconds to play for the Zags.

Blake Stepp, who scored 19 of his 25 points after

halftime, missed a 5-foot follow-up bank shot just before the buzzer sounded.

Gonzaga (24-9) nearly pulled off an upset that would have dwarfed anything the Bulldogs did during their exhilarating tournament runs in 1999, 2000 and 2001.

They collapsed to the floor in disappointment and Arizona (27-3) advanced to a regional semifinal against Notre Dame.

Continued on Page 15

**Moore speaks out**

Michael Moore, the Oscar-nominated filmmaker and political activist, accused President Bush of exploiting the public's fears after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to launch what Moore called an unnecessary war against Iraq.

"This is all a cover and what's so outrageous about all of this is that this man, George W. Bush, would use the deaths of Sept. 11 ... as a cover for his right-wing agenda," Moore said Thursday night as he accepted the Eleanor Roosevelt Freedom of Speech Award from the Southern California chapter of Americans for Democratic Action, a liberal activist group.

The rotund, scruffy-bearded activist from Flint, Mich., is up for best documentary at Sunday's Academy Awards for "Bowling for Columbine," which explores America's gun culture.

**Final appearance**

Elizabeth Taylor is giving up show business for good, saying raising money to fight AIDS is more important to her than acting.

Taylor said when she goes to the Academy Awards on Sunday, the ceremony's 75th anniversary, it will be her last entertainment appearance.

**Faces 'n' places**

"At the end of the broadcast, all the past winners are going to walk across the stage. So that will be my swan song on the stage," she told "Access Hollywood" this week. "I've retired from acting; it doesn't really interest me much anymore. It seems kind of superficial because now my life is AIDS, not acting."

**Honoring Mr. Rogers**

A public memorial service has been scheduled for Fred Rogers, host of the pioneering TV children's show "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," who died in February.

Family Communications Inc., the company that produced "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" for WQED in Pittsburgh, said Friday the memorial service will be held May 3 in the auditorium of Heinz Hall in downtown Pittsburgh.

Rogers died Feb. 27 at age 74 following a bout with stomach cancer.

**Boycotting Oscars**

Zhang Ziyi, star of the Oscar-nominated "Hero," won't attend the Academy Awards on Sunday because war in Iraq has left her in no mood to celebrate.

"With war comes bloodshed and death. How can one go to an awards ceremony in a fancy evening gown and smile?" the Beijing Youth Daily on Friday quoted Zhang as saying.

"Hero" director Zhang Yimou, however, says the message of the martial arts epic set in the reign of China's legendary first emperor is even more relevant.

"'Hero' is a film calling for peace, and at this moment in time, peace is even more important," the director was quoted as saying.

**Splitsville official**

Rock star Bryan Ferry and his wife, Lucy, were divorced Friday after 21 years of marriage.

The High Court Family Division granted Ferry, 56, and the former Lucy Helmore, 42, an uncontested divorce. The couple, who married in June 1982 and have four sons, did not attend the brief hearing.

In papers filed with the court, the former Roxy Music singer said his wife had acknowledged adultery.

Ferry gained fame in the 1970s as the lead singer of Roxy Music, whose hits include "Love is the Drug" and "Avalon."

From The Associated Press



## Avalanche 8, Blackhawks 1

DENVER — Alex Tanguay stayed hot with his first career hat trick and Colorado clinched a playoff spot by routing Chicago 8-1 on Saturday.

Tanguay, who has 20 goals and 33 assists in his past 44 games, scored twice in the second period, when Colorado had five goals.

Rob Blake, Adam Foote and Stephen Reinprecht added second-period goals.

Peter Forsberg had a career-high five assists for the Avalanche, who moved within four points of idle Vancouver for the lead in the Northwest Division. The Avs have made the playoffs every season since moving to Denver for the 1995-96 season. They also made the playoffs in their final year in Quebec.

Patrick Roy stopped 22 shots in two periods to improve to 30-14-12, his 13th 30-win season and eighth consecutive year with at least that many victories. David Aebischer played the third period.

## Red Wings 4, Blues 2

ST. LOUIS — Niklas Lidstrom scored the go-ahead goal in the third period and Curtis Joseph stopped 24 shots as Detroit won their sixth straight game.

The victory moved the first-place Red Wings seven points ahead of the second-place Blues in the Central Division. Each team has eight games to play.

The Red Wings have dominated the series of late, going 4-0 this season. St. Louis has just two victories in its previous 14 games against Detroit.

Detroit has won 17 of its past 19 games (17-1-0-1). The loss snapped a six-game home-ice winning streak for the Blues.

## Rangers 2, Flyers 1

PHILADELPHIA — Dan Blackburn made 28 saves in a spectacular relief effort and Petr Nedved scored the winning goal late in the third period.

The victory moved the Rangers with-

in four points of the New York Islanders for the final Eastern Conference playoff spot. Blackburn replaced starter Mike Dunham to start the second period after Dunham left with a hamstring injury. It was Blackburn's first appearance in 14 games, but he was very sharp.

It was only the Flyers' second loss of the season (24-2-5-1) when leading after the first period.

Nedved scored his 25th goal when he took a shot from the top of the right circle that glanced off the butt end of goaltender Robert Esche's stick and into the net with 3:12 remaining in the third period.

## Devils 4, Islanders 2

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Joe Nieuwendyk had a goal and an assist as New Jersey won for the fourth time in five games.

Pascal Rheaume, Jamie Langenbrunner and John Madden also scored for the Devils, who extended their Atlantic Division lead over Philadelphia to four points.

Oleg Kvasha and Janne Niinimaa scored for the Islanders, who have lost three straight games at home. The Islanders are eighth in the Eastern Conference, just four points ahead of the New York Rangers and six in front of Montreal for the final playoff spot.

## Canadiens 5, Hurricanes 3

MONTREAL — Saku Koivu and Andrei Markov each had a goal and an assist, and Jose Theodore made 34 saves for Montreal.

Francis Bouillon, Jason Ward and Donald Audette also scored for Montreal, which ended a seven-game home winless streak.

Carolina's Kevin Adams opened the scoring 14 seconds into the game, and Josef Vasicek also scored for the Hurricanes.

The crowd of 21,273 cheered during the final verse of the U.S. national an-

## NHL

them after a video address by Hall of Famer Jean Beliveau asking fans to respect the playing of both anthems.

A large number of Montreal fans voiced displeasure with the war in Iraq by booing throughout the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" before Thursday night's loss to the New York Islanders.

## Thrashers 3, Blue Jackets 2

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Lubos Bartekko scored with 7:04 left to lift Atlanta over Columbus.

Dany Heatley had a goal to extend his points streak to six games (4-6-10). He has eight goals and 14 points this month.

Mark Hartigan also had a goal for Atlanta. Rick Nash and Lasse Pirjeta scored for the Blue Jackets. Matt Davidson had his first multipoint NHL game with two assists.

## Maple Leafs 3, Sabres 2 (OT)

TORONTO — Bryan McCabe beat Mike Noronen with a slap shot 36 seconds into overtime as Toronto beat Buffalo.

Mats Sundin and Robert Svehla each had a goal and an assist for Maple Leafs, who played their third straight overtime game. J.P. Dumont and James Patrick scored for the Sabres.

## Senators 3, Panthers 1

SUNRISE, Fla. — Marian Hossa scored with 36.7 seconds left as Ottawa clinched the Northeast Division title.

Hossa tied Vancouver stars Markus Naslund and Todd Bertuzzi for the NHL goal lead, scoring his 43rd.

Ottawa, which has an NHL-leading 104 points, has won the Northeast title three times in the past five seasons.

The loss extended Florida's fran-

chise-record home winless streak to 12 games at 0-9-2-1.

Bryan Smolinski tied it for Ottawa at 9:22 of the third, and Magnus Arvedson scored into an empty net with 22 seconds left.

Patrick Lalime made 24 saves for Ottawa, allowing only Matt Cullen's short-handed goal.

## Lightning 4, Coyotes 0

PHOENIX — Vincent Lecavalier had his second three-goal game of the season as Tampa Bay moved within a point of clinching a playoff spot.

Lecavalier scored twice on the power play and once short-handed, and Dave Andreychuk added a power-play goal for the Lightning, who can clinch the second postseason berth in franchise history Monday at San Jose. Tampa Bay made the playoffs in 1996.

Nikolai Khabibulin made 21 saves for his fourth shutout of the season, helping the Lightning extend their unbeaten streak to a franchise-record eight games at 5-0-3.

## Predators 1, Flames 1

CALGARY, Alberta — Calgary rookie Blair Betts scored his first goal of the season with 6:24 to play.

Nashville, outshot 23-8 in the first two periods, opened the scoring on Oleg Petrov goal at 8:02 of the third.

Calgary was eliminated from the Western Conference playoff race, stretching its playoff drought to seven seasons.

## Mighty Ducks 3, Sharks 2 (OT)

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Niclas Havelid scored with 3:27 left in overtime, and Paul Kariya had three assists as Anaheim moved to the brink of their first playoff berth in four years.

Petr Sykora scored two goals on passes from Kariya for the Ducks, who need just one more win or a loss by Phoenix to clinch a playoff spot.

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## Continued from Page 14

Jason Gardner scored 22 for the Wildcats. Channing Frye had 22 points and 12 rebounds, and Rick Anderson added 17 points and 11 rebounds. Luke Walton 16 points, nine assists, two blocked shots and three steals. His basket with 4.1 seconds to go forced the second overtime.

## Notre Dame 68, Illinois 60

INDIANAPOLIS — Dan Miller matched a career high with 23 points as Notre Dame advanced to the regional semifinals for the first time in 16 years.

Chris Thomas added 17 points for the Fighting Irish (24-9), who had not advanced this far in the NCAAAs since 1987 under coach Digger Phelps. That year, they were eliminated in the regional semifinals by North Carolina.

It was a disappointing second-round exit for Illinois (25-7), the Big Ten tournament champions. Conference player of the year Brian Cook had 19 points and 16 rebounds.

Notre Dame shot 13-for-24 from three-point range, including 11-for-16 in the first half. Miller sank his first five threes and finished 5-for-7. Thomas and Matt Carroll each hit three from beyond the arc.

## Duke 86, Central Michigan 60

SALT LAKE CITY — Dahntay Jones scored a career-high 28 points and J.J. Redick added 26 as the third-seeded Blue Devils ran past the No. 11 Chippewas.

Duke (26-6) gave coach Mike Krzyzewski his 60th NCAA tournament victory, second only to Dean Smith's 65. The Blue Devils advanced to the regional semifinals for the sixth year in a row and the 20th time in their 28 NCAA appearances.

After struggling to beat No. 14 seed Colorado State 67-57 on Thursday, Duke came out strong and never let up against the outmanned, slower champions of the Mid-American Conference. The only lead Central Michigan (25-7) had was 2-0.

Chris Kaman scored 25 points and added 10 rebounds for the Chippewas, but teammate Mike Manziel managed just five points on 1-for-9 shooting.

## NCAA continued

### Kansas 108, Arizona St. 76

OKLAHOMA CITY — Seniors Nick Collison and Kirk Hinrich sparked second-seeded Kansas right from the opening tipoff in an offensive showcase light years removed from its first-round struggles against Utah State.

Kansas (27-7), a Final Four team a year ago, is in the round of 16 for the ninth time in coach Roy Williams' 15 seasons.

Collison scored 22 points and had 10 rebounds, and Hinrich scored 24 as the Jayhawks topped 100 points for just the fifth time in the school's 98 NCAA tournament games.

Jason Braxton scored 17 for the 10th-seeded Sun Devils (20-11), who were in their first NCAA tournament since 1995.

### MIDWEST

#### Marquette 101, Missouri 92 (OT)

INDIANAPOLIS — Freshman Steve Novak made three three-pointers and the Golden Eagles made all of their shots in overtime to pull away from Missouri and into the regional semifinals.

It is Marquette's first trip to the round of 16 since 1994 and only its second since coach Al McGuire and the 1977 team won the national championship.

Travis Diener led the third-seeded Golden Eagles (25-5) with 26 points, while Dwyane Wade added 24 points and eight rebounds.

Marquette made six straight baskets and all six free throws in overtime, advancing to play either Pittsburgh or Indiana on Thursday in Minneapolis.

Rickey Paulding scored 36 points and made nine three-pointers, both career highs, for the sixth-seeded Tigers (22-11) — who had reached the regional semifinals the past two years. Arthur Johnson added 28 points and 18 rebounds.

### Wisconsin 61, Tulsa 60

SPOKANE, Wash. — Freddie Owens, playing on a sprained right ankle, hit a three-pointer with 1 sec-

ond left to cap a late rally and lift fifth-seeded Wisconsin over No. 13 Tulsa.

The Badgers (23-7), making a school-record fifth straight NCAA appearance, advanced to the regional semifinals against the winner of Sunday's game in Nashville between Kentucky and Utah.

Owens was injured in Wisconsin's opening-round victory over Weber State and his status was unclear until tipoff.

Mike Wilkinson had 18 points and eight rebounds for Wisconsin, while Devin Harris scored 12 and Alando Tucker 10. The Badgers survived despite a six-point effort by their best player, Kirk Penney.

Kevin Johnson scored 23 points and Jason Parker had 17 for Tulsa (23-10), the lowest-seeded team to advance past the first round.

The Golden Hurricane were in control, leading 58-45 with 4:08 to play before the Badgers rallied with an 11-0 run.

### SOUTH

#### Connecticut 85, Stanford 74

SPOKANE, Wash. — Ben Gordon scored 29 points, and Emeka Okafor added 18 points and 15 rebounds to lead fifth-seeded Connecticut (23-9) into the round of 16.

Gordon, held to 14 points in an opening victory over BYU, shot 8-for-14 and made all nine of his free-throw attempts.

Julius Barnes had 23 points, and Justin Davis bounced back from a scoreless opener to score 21 for Stanford (24-9).

### EAST

#### Oklahoma 74, California 65

OKLAHOMA CITY — Kevin Bookout scored a career-high 22 points and fellow freshman DeAngelo Alexander added 15 as the top-seeded Sooners (26-6) cruised into the regional semifinals.

Brian Wethers matched his career high with 27 points and Joe Shipp scored 20 for the eighth-seeded Golden Bears (22-9), but they didn't get much help.

Oklahoma star Hollis Price, the Big 12 player of the year, was still bothered by a left groin injury. He played 30 minutes but scored just five points.

From The Associated Press

